



National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 19 February 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Dallas Morning News reports experts at the annual conference of Cambridge Energy Research Associates expect that natural gas prices are likely to remain at higher levels for at least the next two years, due to market volatility and inadequate production that is crimping supplies. (See item [6](#))
- Reuters reports that according to representatives for the credit card associations, more than five million Visa and MasterCard accounts throughout the nation were accessed after the computer system at a third party processor was hacked. (See item [8](#))
- Government Computer News reports the Open Web Application Security Project has released a list of the top ten vulnerabilities in Web applications and services, focusing on common vulnerabilities that require immediate remediation. (See item [22](#))
- Federal Computer Week reports the Pentagon said that an attempt to send a virus through its systems last week was thwarted before damage could be caused. (See item [23](#))

NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *February 18, New York Times* — Venezuela says oil industry to rebound soon from strike. The state-owned oil company in Venezuela, though hobbled by a faltering 78-day strike by oil workers, could be producing 2.8 million barrels per day within a month, Venezuela's quota as set by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, the

president of the company said today. Reaching 2.8 million barrels per day would be a milestone for the state-owned company, Petróleos de Venezuela, once the world's second-largest oil company and a major supplier of petroleum to the United States. The company used to produce 3.1 million barrels a day until an antigovernment strike paralyzed production, devastating Venezuela's economy and severely testing the leftist government of President Hugo Chávez. The announcement by Alí Rodríguez, president of the company, was quickly challenged by dissident oil executives who on Dec. 2 led a walkout of thousands of workers that continues to this day. The walkout was part of a nationwide general action, but the strike in the other sectors fizzled out earlier this month. **The striking oil executives say that production stands at 1.4 million barrels per day, and that reaching 2.8 million per day will take many more months because Petróleos de Venezuela lacks the managers and technicians to reactivate the industry quickly and properly. Chávez has fired nearly 13,000 striking workers, many of them senior executives and highly trained engineers. Indeed, oil analysts outside Venezuela say Petróleos de Venezuela would probably never again be the same giant it once was because it has been so hobbled by the loss of qualified workers, the damage to its reputation caused by the strike and financial losses estimated at \$3 billion.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/18/international/americas/18V ENE.html>

2. *February 18, The Boston Globe* — **OPEC may suspend quotas if Iraq output halted . The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) may temporarily suspend production quotas and increase supplies should Iraqi oil output be halted because of a U.S.-led military attack, an official from the group said. Suspending the quotas is one of the likely scenarios, said the official, who declined to be identified. Under that option, OPEC countries would stop complying with output quotas and pump crude at full capacity, he said.** Oil prices fell yesterday on speculation a U.S.-led attack on Iraq may be delayed as UN arms inspectors seek more time. Brent crude fell 50 cents to \$32. **Within the 11-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, only Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have significant spare capacity to pump more, analysts have said.** Many OPEC countries ignored their output quotas after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 disrupted exports from both countries and caused prices to surge to \$40 a barrel. Iraq doesn't have an OPEC quota because its oil exports are under UN supervision.

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/049/business/OPEC_may_suspend_quotas_if_Iraq_output_halted+.shtml

3. *February 17, Washington Post* — **Oil reserve is 'first line of defense' for U.S.** Enough oil is stored in the deep, cone-shaped salt caverns along the Gulf of Mexico to replace a year's worth of imports from Saudi Arabia. **Originally conceived as a response to the oil crises of the 1970s, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve has become as much a part of the United States' strategic arsenal as the aircraft carriers, airborne divisions and spy planes converging on the Persian Gulf region. According to the Department of Energy, the 599-million barrel reserve constitutes the nation's "first line of defense" against disruptions in energy supplies.** As President Bush prepares for war with Iraq, he has come under pressure to use the reserve to calm an increasingly jittery market. In addition to the uncertainty caused by the Iraqi crisis, a general strike in Venezuela has helped push oil prices to new highs, and slashed inventories in many parts of the world to critically low levels. If the past is a guide, and Bush follows the precedent set by his father in the Persian Gulf War in 1991, he probably will resist

the temptation to tap into the underground storage sites in Texas and Louisiana until the onset of any hostilities. If the attack on Iraq begins, he will order the release of some of the oil in the reserve, a move designed to signal the United States' ability to ride out any temporary panic over the oil market. **The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is "a powerful instrument," said John Shages, one of the Energy Department officials responsible for managing the network of storage sites, pipelines and loading facilities strung out along the Gulf of Mexico. "It gives the president a tremendous tool to use in the event of a severe disruption to the market, from an act of God to a political–military event."** Apart from the Desert Storm drawdown, the reserve has rarely been touched. In 1996 and 1997, President Bill Clinton authorized non–emergency sales of 28 million barrels to raise revenue. In September 2000, he ordered an exchange of 30 million barrels of oil to bring down heating oil prices in the Northeast, a move that Republicans criticized as an election–year ploy. By the time Clinton left office, the oil stockpile had dwindled to 540 million barrels. After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, the reserve assumed much greater strategic importance. The Bush administration is now committed to filling the reserve to its 700 million barrel capacity. It is also considering ways to reach the original target of 1 billion barrels, which would require \$3 billion to \$6 billion of new investment in infrastructure and oil purchases.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A22526–2003Feb.17.html>

4. *February 17, State Journal (Charleston, WV)* — **Bush makes 'down payment' on clean–coal pledge. Clean–coal technology got a boost earlier this month when the federal government committed more than \$300 million to eight new clean coal projects across the country—and one–third of that money is headed to West Virginia. The rise of the digital economy and higher demands on computers have resulted in a energy boom in the United States that is expected to continue, increasing the demand for electricity and coal. Realizing the need for more power plants but also the need to protect the environment, President Bush promised to commit \$2 billion over 10 years to advance clean coal technology.** The president carried out his pledge when he unveiled his National Energy Policy in May 2001. In his Fiscal Year 2002 and 2003 budgets, Bush included a total of \$300 million for the U.S. Department of Energy to spend on the clean–coal initiative. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham is calling the first \$300 million "Bush's downpayment on the commitment." In addition to the original budget, Congress added advance appropriations, providing \$330 million for the Department of Energy to fund the first round of clean coal technology projects. Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=bhsuper_2003_01_24_BTSJX_0000–3176–KEYWORD.Missinga
5. *February 17, UtiliPoint International* — **Maine uses innovative approaches to deregulation. Electricity consumers often hear a lot about California, Pennsylvania and Texas. But other states that have restructured their power markets sometimes get lost in the shuffle. One jurisdiction that gets little national attention is Maine, which has been open to competition since March 2000.** At one point last spring, the migration rates from the incumbent to competitive suppliers reached roughly 46 percent of the total electricity load there. Medium and large industrial consumers have made up the preponderance of those that shop around, mainly because they are the ones that can save the most money. The switching rates have since declined to about 37 percent of the total load as the so– called standard offer price has fallen. That “default” price is for consumers who do not buy from competitive

suppliers. **Maine stands apart from other states, largely because of the way it has developed its standard offer. Unlike some jurisdictions where the default price is set administratively, Maine puts that business out for bid by aggregating ratepayers regionally to make the group attractive to potential providers.** The supplier with the best price in both the residential and small business market as well as the large industrial one will get the business of those consumers not looking to shop. Alternative suppliers are encouraged to try and top that offer through any number of measures that include longer term contracts, uncommon services and of course, better prices.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_national.htm?SMDOCID=UtiliPoint+International 2003 02 17 10455344 95898a>

6. *February 13, The Dallas Morning News* — **Tough times for natural gas market. Natural gas prices are likely to remain at higher levels for at least the next two years, due to market volatility and inadequate production that is crimping supplies. And the U.S. natural gas market will see a transformation similar to the shift in oil markets during the 1970s, when domestic production reached its peak and began falling — leading to a greater focus on the Middle East and other key exporters for the country's energy needs. That was the verdict from executives and industry experts on Wednesday at the annual conference of Cambridge Energy Research Associates. "Existing supply basins in North America cannot meet the supply challenges that are ahead of us," said Hal Kvisle, president and CEO of TransCanada PipeLines Ltd. A key reason: Growing demand. The popularity of natural gas as a relatively clean energy source compared to coal and oil has strained supplies even as the most accessible reserves dwindle. North American production will continue to be a key part of U.S. supplies, and companies will seek greater production from areas such as the Rocky Mountains, Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico. They'll also look to increased activity in Canada as they try to maintain production on the continent. But industry experts see a long-term shift in the nation's outlook for natural gas — similar to what happened in the 1970s when declining U.S. oil production brought a greater reliance on foreign sources.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3643301

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Chemical Sector

7. *February 17, Science Daily (Texas A M University)* — **Study examines chemical safety across United States, effects on population . Eighteen years after a leak at a chemical plant in Bhopal, India killed thousands of people on Dec. 3, 1984, a new report on chemical safety in the United States shows that while the number of incidents are falling, a lot of work still remains to be done to eliminate them. According to a study by the Texas Engineering Experiment Station's Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center, less than half of people in the United States are aware of chemical plants in their communities, and even fewer were aware of any chemical accidents occurring in their communities during the previous five years. And, the majority of those people surveyed had not received any information telling them what to do to protect themselves in case of a chemical accident in their community. Put together over a two-year period by more than 80 representatives from government, industry, academia and public interest groups, the report examines public awareness of chemical spills and safety, ways of measuring chemical safety and the**

usefulness of how the federal government compiles and maintains records on incidents involving the release of harmful chemicals. Dr. Sam Mannan, director of the Mary Kay O'Connor Process Safety Center, said that while the chemical industry has a tremendous impact on the national economy, until now no one has ever done a national assessment of where the industry is, where it needs to go and what improvements are needed in terms of chemical safety. **The report finds that the chemical industry still has a lot of work to do in some areas, especially in terms of keeping their communities informed about what's going on. While people surveyed in the study felt their community could respond well to a chemical accident, they still believed their families would be in danger.** "We need to have a better informed public — where the public trusts the information coming out of the chemical industry — so people are better able to deal with emergencies such as chemical incidents," Mannan said. "Public trust is essential for improved safety." The number of chemical spills in the United States and the number of injuries and fatalities from these spills do appear to be declining, he said. The top five most released chemicals in the United States from 1994–1999 are: ammonia, chlorine, hydrogen, propane and formaldehyde. The report can be found at <http://ncsp.tamu.edu>
Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2003/02/030218085341.htm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *February 18, Reuters* — **Hackers view Visa/MasterCard accounts.** More than five million Visa and MasterCard accounts throughout the nation were accessed after the computer system at a third party processor was hacked into, according to representatives for the card associations. **Early indications were that none of the information, which would include credit card numbers, was used in a fraudulent way, according to the representatives. The associations said they could not provide a timeline of when the breach took place or details on how it was accomplished because it involved a third party processor used by merchants and not Visa or MasterCard systems. The associations said they could not disclose the name of that processor.** Visa and MasterCard are associations made up of financial institutions who issue the cards. MasterCard said it began to notify its members the week of Feb. 3 that more than 2 million MasterCard accounts had been broken into after the processor told it about the problem, MasterCard spokeswoman Sharon Gamsin told Reuters. About 3.4 million Visa accounts also have been accessed in the incident, according to spokesman John Abrams. "Visa's fraud team immediately notified all affected card issuing financial institutions and is working with the third-party payment card processor to protect against the threat of a future intrusion," the association said in a statement.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&c_nm/financial_visamastercard_dc_2

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Transportation Sector

9. *February 18, New York Times* — **Britain charges Venezuelan who had grenade in airport. A Venezuelan man arrested at Gatwick Airport last week with a live grenade in his luggage was formally charged with terrorist crimes today, and the government said army patrols at Britain's airports would be kept in place for the foreseeable future.** In a separate development, Sir John Stevens, the Metropolitan police commissioner, warned Britons that **Al Qaeda had a "substantial presence" in the country and that an attempted terror attack here was all but inevitable.** The Venezuelan, Hasil Muhammad Rahaham–Alan, 37, was charged with possession of an article for the purpose of committing terrorism, possession of an explosive substance with intent to endanger life or damage property, and carrying a dangerous article on a British–registered aircraft. Alistair Darling, the transportation secretary, said the airport security crackdowns were part of a heightened vigilance that would be maintained "for some time to come." Nine suspects were arrested under antiterror laws near the two airports or under flight paths last week, and one of Heathrow's four terminals was evacuated after a security alert on Friday. Rahaham–Alan was the only one charged. Of the eight who were released, five were transferred to the custody of immigration officials for investigation of their statuses in Britain.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/18/international/europe/18BRI T.html>

10. *February 18, New York Times* — **Airline executives discuss impact of possible war in Iraq.** Top executives from 15 international airlines gathered in Seoul, South Korea on Tuesday to welcome the newest member of their marketing alliance but spent much of their time talking both privately and publicly about the potential impact of a war against Iraq. "It's a very difficult time," said Wallop Bhukkanasut, vice president of Thai Airways International, talking over the din of loud music and video presentations at a lavish reception hosted by Asiana Airlines, which joins the Star Alliance on March 1. A war would hit Thai Airways harder than most of the other members since the airline flies to five Persian Gulf states and would have to suspend service to all of them if fighting started. **Executives of airlines that fly nowhere near the Gulf talked anxiously of declining service worldwide, the need for alternate routes, and additional "technical stops" if their planes for any reason had to be diverted hundreds or thousands of miles out of the way.** "We are in contingency planning," said Juergen Weber, chief executive officer of Deutsche Lufthansa AG, talking to reporters before the reception. "Nobody knows how serious it will hit us." Weber said that **bookings had gone down by 20 percent during and after the first Gulf War in late 1990 and early 1991 and predicted a similar drop-off if war breaks out again in the region. Already, he said, bookings had gone down amid rising fuel costs.** Other airline executives expressed similar worries about the impact of conflict. "We're all concerned about it," said Mark Schwab, regional vice president for United Airlines, which also has no service to the Middle East. "We have developed contingency plans. We try to forecast what might happen. It's all very unpredictable."

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/17/business/worldbusiness/17C ND–AIR.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

11. *February 18, Washington Times* — **Corrective bill seeks to arm cargo pilots.** Key House lawmakers are working to close a loophole in the Homeland Security Act that excludes cargo pilots from carrying firearms to protect their aircraft from terrorist attacks. **The legislation now moving through Congress would allow 10,000 cargo pilots to train and carry weapons in the cockpit after undergoing background checks.** In addition to cargo, the planes carry vendor customers and company employees. **Originally, the Homeland Security Act allowed all pilots to arm themselves, but it was amended later to permit only commercial pilots.** President Bush signed into law in the fall the act that allows 60,000 commercial airline pilots to seek qualifications for this program, and Rep. John Mica, Florida Republican and chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure aviation subcommittee, said it is now necessary to give cargo pilots the same protection. **"There are no federal air marshals on cargo flights and we cannot allow these jets to be used for future terrorist attacks,"** said Rep. Don Young, Alaska Republican and chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The corrective legislation has drawn praise from the pilots association, which released a statement saying that it will work with Congress to pass what it says is a "greatly needed improvement to aviation security."
- Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20030218-42503656.htm>

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Agriculture Sector

12. *February 18, Agricultural Research Service* — **New, rapid laboratory test for avian influenza in the live bird market.** A strain of avian influenza that has been endemic in live bird markets can now be detected quickly using a new laboratory test developed by a U.S. Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientist. **ARS veterinary medical officer David Suarez developed the test to quickly identify birds infected with the avian influenza strain H7N2, which has been found among birds in northeastern U.S. markets since 1994.** The laboratory test, called the real-time reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction test (RT-PCR), uses a fluorescent probe and produces results in less than 3 hours. For poultry, influenza infections can range from mild to severe, causing production losses or, in severe cases, sickness and death. The deadly form is called highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The mild form is hard to differentiate from other, more common health characteristics in a flock. Suarez's test uses the virus's genetic code to identify it.
- Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2003/030218.htm>
13. *February 17, Associated Press* — **Cattle selloff a \$50 million loss. The selloff of cattle due to the drought will cost \$50 million to ranchers and the businesses that cater to them, South Dakota and federal officials said.** And it will mean a smaller calf crop this year. The number of cattle in South Dakota fell by about 250,000 head in the past year. The number was 3.95 million in January 2002 to 3.7 million this January. Included in the drop are 106,000 fewer cows and about 10,000 fewer replacement heifers. South Dakota will produce about 98,000 fewer calves this year, said Trey Patterson, beef specialist with South Dakota State University's West River Agriculture Center. At \$450 a head, that's \$44 million that won't be spent to buy South Dakota's calves, he said. **Ranchers usually spend up to 90 percent of their calf money to maintain their cow herd for another year. So Patterson said they will be spending about \$40 million less at local businesses for feed, medicine, fuel, and other expenses. If ranchers**

must sell more cattle and bred heifers this winter, those calves also will be lost to the state's economy. So the cash losses from calf sales could hit \$50 million, not to mention the ripple effect on rural economies, Patterson said.

Source: <http://www.aberdeennews.com/mld/aberdeennews/news/5201988.htm>

14. *February 16, Associated Press* — **Colleges create agroterror resource.** A collaboration between Georgia universities and federal agencies is helping boost national preparedness efforts against agricultural terrorism, officials said. **The University of Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology have created the Center for Security in Agriculture and the Environment, the country's leading source of expertise on agroterrorism.** The center has received a \$750,000 federal grant to create a Web-based course to train vets and boost the number of animal disease detectives in the state. **The center also is working to create the country's first agroterror exercise, a simulation of a dangerous virus in Georgia animals that causes a nationwide outbreak.** Experts say there are several weak spots in the country's preparations against agroterror or a natural disease outbreak on farms. There is no rapid system of reporting animal outbreaks of disease. Also, veterinarians increasingly are trained solely to provide health care for pets, and few have had the extensive coursework needed to identify widespread animal disease outbreaks.

Source: http://augustachronicle.com/stories/021703/met_124-2352.shtml

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Food Sector

15. *February 17, SeaFood.com* — **Looking for ways to control Listeria.** Listeria monocytogenes is one of the most difficult pathogens for the food industry to control in ready-to-eat foods. Later this month, the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) will be meeting with food technologists and food safety officials in the meat industry to seek ways to improve controls. One idea is to add oregano extract to sausages, cold cuts and other ready-to-eat meat. Small amounts of oregano extracts added to meat seem to significantly slow the growth of listeria. 'These are initial results, which are very promising,' Kalidas Shetty, a University of Massachusetts researcher. The treatment, which is still a year away from commercial use, would cost meat companies less than 5 cents per pound to use, Shetty estimated. Researchers are also experimenting with dipping meat in a calcium sulfate solution. The technique now being tested involves dipping hot dogs into a calcium sulfate solution, then packaging and refrigerating them for three months to duplicate conditions in grocery stores. Preliminary tests show hot dogs contaminated with listeria then treated with the solution 'reduced the listeria down to levels that we could not detect,' said Jimmy Keeton, a researcher with Texas A and M University. The treatment would cost a few cents per pound. **Scientists also are looking for a stronger floor drain cleaner to help U.S. meat plants prevent listeria contamination. One approach uses lactic acid and other so-called 'good bacteria' to kill listeria inside the floor drains of meat plants.** Although plants routinely scrub floors and equipment, some listeria can cling to the inside of floor drains. 'The concept is primarily to control the organism in the environment,' said Michael Doyle, a food scientist with the University of Georgia.

Source: <http://www.seafood.com/news/current/87944.html>

Water Sector

16. *February 15, Los Angeles Times* — **Water is at risk, report finds. Ground water contaminated with the pollutant chromium 6 has migrated near wells and water-treatment facilities that serve Burbank, Glendale, and Los Angeles, California a new report finds.** The document further warns that inaction by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could result in the closure of water-cleansing wells and thus cause the three cities to lose a valuable local water supply. Mel Blevins, who prepared the report, wants federal officials to order as many as 60 companies suspected of contaminating ground water with chromium 6 to add the chemical to a list of pollutants the companies are already required to remove from water supplies. He also wants Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board officials to enforce clean water standards through cleanup and abatement orders. Lisa Fasano, an EPA spokeswoman, said her agency is reviewing the report and is working closely with Blevins. **The threat of well closures and other problems posed by a migrating chromium 6 plume is not imminent, according to Los Angeles and Glendale officials, because it is moving slowly. They support the report's recommendation for action, and their cities are helping to fund a study to develop technology to remove chromium 6 from water supplies.**

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/valley/la-me-chromium15feb15.1.1538596.story?coll=la%2Deditions%2Dvalley>

17. *February 14, Newsday* — **Governor announces \$3.6 million for safe drinking water. New York Governor George Pataki, on Friday, announced more than \$3.6 million in federal grants for the protection and improvement of the city's drinking water supply.** "By taking steps to protect the New York City Watershed, we will ensure high quality drinking water for the 9 million New Yorkers who depend on this water supply," Pataki said in a statement. **The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendment (SDWA) of 1996 provides funding for the monitoring and surveillance of the city's drinking water supply. Since 1997, the state has received more than \$25 million in federal SDWA funding for the city watershed.** The state has committed nearly \$53 million over 15 years to enhance programs for the protection of the watershed. The New York City watershed is located in eight upstate communities and consists of about 1,900 square miles of land and waters.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-ny--safedrinkingwater0214feb14.0.5341995.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire>

Public Health Sector

18. *February 18, New York Times* — **Leprosy on rise in U.S.** In the United States, leprosy is usually regarded as a plague of the past, a disease relegated to biblical times or, perhaps, to poor and distant countries. **In fact, as cases of leprosy have been declining worldwide in recent years, the infection has actually been on the rise in the United States. While there**

were some 900 recorded cases in the United States 40 years ago, today more than 7,000 people have leprosy, or Hansen's disease, as it is now called. "And those are the ones we know about," said Dr. William Levis, attending physician at Bellevue Hospital's Hansen's Disease Clinic. "There are probably many, many more." Recasting leprosy as an American disease is critical to helping doctors identify those other undetected cases, but drawing attention to a condition that has become synonymous with stigma has proved to be challenging. **Most of those infected in this country are immigrants from global leprosy hot spots, like Brazil, India, and the Caribbean. But, in the past six years, Dr. Levis and his colleagues have proved that a handful of his patients, including a 73-year-old man from Queens who had never been out of the country and an elderly Jewish man from Westchester, have contracted leprosy here. As a result, the disease is now officially endemic to the Northeastern United States for the first time ever.** Cases of leprosy transmission in the Southeast date as far back as the turn of the 19th century. And leprosy experts think that even some foreign-born people with the infection may have acquired it in immigrant communities here.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/18/health/18LEPR.html>

19. *February 16, EurekAlert* — **Forensics: bringing bacteria into the courtroom. If bioterrorists are ever brought to trial, the evidence against them will depend on the painstaking work of a detective in a lab coat. Scientists at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) warn that such evidence will not be admissible unless researchers develop new molecular methods, such as genome sequencing, and adopt standardized methods and data.** "Today, there are cases that are more likely to come up in court. As a discipline, we need to be prepared," said Abigail Salyers, of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "Let's be thinking ahead so we don't have a situation where the validity of the tests used to gather certain evidence becomes the focal point of a trial. We must put into place quality control and standards that provide proper validation and interpretation, so microbial evidence involving genetic information will be viewed acceptable in a courtroom." **Citing the recent attacks of anthrax sent through the mail, and the potential for other acts of bioterrorism, Salyers and her colleagues at a session held during the AAAS Annual Meeting called for the development of a comprehensive microbial forensics infrastructure.** In microbial forensics, researchers work to track down the source of a pathogen, whether in a criminal investigation of bioterrorism attacks or a study of naturally occurring disease outbreak, looking for molecular microbial signatures. These signatures are detected by measuring the polymorphisms, or variations, between microbial strains and are used to infer the origin, relationship, or transmission route of a particular isolate.
- Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2003-02/aaft-fb021503.php

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Government Sector

20. *February 18, Government Executive* — **Washington-area agencies remain closed after heavy snow.** As residents of the Washington area continued to dig out from more than a foot of snow over the weekend, **federal agencies in the city and its immediate vicinity remained closed on Tuesday. Only emergency employees were expected to report to work.** Agencies in Washington also were closed Monday, but most employees already had the day off because

of the President's Day holiday. Between 16 and 24 inches of snow fell on Sunday and Monday in areas around Washington. Reagan National and Baltimore–Washington International Airports were closed all day Monday, and only a few flights got in or out of Dulles International Airport. Area transit systems were operating on only a very limited basis. **Office of Personnel Management Director Kay Coles James made the decision Monday afternoon to keep agencies closed for another day after consulting with local officials in the Washington area.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/021703ts1.htm>

21. *February 18, Department of State* — **Determination pursuant to section 212(a)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), placing entities on the terrorist exclusion list (TEL).** Acting under the authority of section 212(a)(3)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), as amended, and in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, the Secretary of State hereby determined that each of the following entities is a "terrorist organization" under the meaning of the INA:

Al Taqwa Trade, Property and Industry Company Limited (f.k.a. Al Taqwa Trade, Property and Industry; f.k.a. Al Taqwa Trade, Property and Industry Establishment; f.k.a. Himmat Establishment) Bank Al Taqwa Limited (a.k.a. Al Taqwa Bank; a.k.a. Bank Al Taqwa) Nada Management Organization SA (f.k.a. Al Taqwa Management Organization SA)

Youssef M. Nada & Co. Gesellschaft M.B.H.

Ummah Tameer E–Nau (UTN) (a.k.a. Foundation for Construction; a.k.a. Nation Building; a.k.a. Reconstruction Foundation; a.k.a. Reconstruction of the Islamic Community; a.k.a. Reconstruction of the Muslim Ummah; a.k.a. Ummah Tameer I–Nau; a.k.a. Ummah Tameer E–Nau; a.k.a. Ummah Tameer I–Pau)

Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) Ulster Defense Association (a.k.a. Ulster Freedom Fighters)

Afghan Support Committee (ASC) (a.k.a. Ahya ul Turas; a.k.a. Jamiat Ayat–ur–Rhas al Islamia; a.k.a. Jamiat Ihya ul Turath al Islamia; a.k.a. Lajnat el Masa Eidatul Afghanistan)

Revival of Islamic Heritage Society (RIHS) (a.k.a. Jamia Ihya ul Turath; a.k.a. Jamiat Ihia Al–Turath Al–Islamiya; a.k.a. Revival of Islamic Society Heritage on the African Continent) [Pakistan and Afghanistan; Kuwait office not designated]

Source: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocke.t.access.gpo.gov/2003/03–3850.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.



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Information and Telecommunications Sector

22. *February 18, Government Computer News* — **Open Source group releases list of top 10 Web vulnerabilities.** The Open Web Application Security Project released a list of the top ten vulnerabilities in Web applications and services on Tuesday. The group said **it wants the list to focus government and private-sector attention on common vulnerabilities "that require immediate remediation."** "Also, in the longer term, this list is intended to be used by development teams and their managers during project planning," the report reads. OWASP is a volunteer Open Source community project created to bring attention to Web application security. It patterned its list on the SANS Institute's and FBI's top 20 list of network vulnerabilities. **Like the SANS-FBI list, the OWASP vulnerabilities are well known and have been recognized for years, but continue to represent significant risks because they remain common.** They can be exploited by code in [http](#) requests that are passed through firewalls and into servers despite hardening and are not noted by intrusion detection systems. The complete report is available from the OWASP Website at www.owasp.org.
Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21159-1.html

23. *February 18, Federal Computer Week* — **Pentagon thwarts spoofed e-mail.** The Pentagon said today that **an attempt to send a virus through its systems last week was thwarted before damage could be caused.** On the morning of February 14, someone "spoofed" the Defense Technology Information Center (DTIC) header, camouflaging the sender's real address to make recipients think the message had come from the Defense Department. **The message had a virus attached and was sent through Pentagon computers to two mailing lists.** "Our computers caught the virus and stripped it out," said Terry Davis, manager of the Public Web Program in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. "So **what went out was the original text message that was sent in the e-mail, but the virus and the attachment were both stripped.**" Davis said he and a few co-workers then went into the system to put safeguards in place to prevent someone else from spoofing a DTIC header.
Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2003/0217/web-dtic-02-18-03.asp>

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net	 Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 www.securityfocus.com
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	#1 Virus in the United States: PE_FUNLOVE.4099 Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html , Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]
Top 10 Target Ports	137 (netbios-ns), 80 (www), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 113 (ident), 6348 (---), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 4662

(eDonkey2000), 139 (netbios-ssn), 4675 (eMule), 445 (microsoft-ds)

Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

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General Sector

24. *February 19, Japan Today* — **Congo hit by suspected Ebola virus. Villagers in the Republic of Congo–Brazzaville's more remote parts have been fleeing their homes as World Health Organization experts, clad from head to toe in futuristic protective white suits, arrive to investigate a suspected outbreak of deadly Ebola fever.** Squads of WHO and government medical experts are attempting to draw blood samples to determine whether a viral infection that has killed more than 50 people is indeed Ebola. **The current outbreak, 440 miles north of the capital Brazzaville and near the border with Gabon, began spreading among villagers after they butchered and ate the meat of infected gorillas.** More than 80% of a clan of gorillas in the nearby forests of the 100–square–mile Lossi Gorilla Sanctuary have recently died of Ebola. The Lossi sanctuary was created at the request of the villagers when they realized that the long–term benefits from gorilla viewing by tourists far outweighed any short–term benefits from hunting. But the catastrophic fall in the population of lowland gorillas in Lossi and the more famous 5,250–square–mile Odzala National Park, to the southwest, is threatening these magnificent animals at the very heart of their range in central Africa. Two Spanish primatologists, who have been studying eight gorilla families in a 15–square–mile area of Lossi for the past decade, say all 139 of the gorillas have simply disappeared, apparently victims of Ebola. **Last month, more than 25 people died of the virus in a nearby village across the border in Gabon before the outbreak was contained. Previously, the last known Ebola outbreak was in 2001 when about 100 people died in Gabon and Congo–Brazzaville.** Health Minister Alain Moka said: "Right now, the teams are having a lot of trouble working with the villagers, who believe the disease is a terrible curse.

Source: <http://www.japantoday.com/e/?content=news/a>

25. *February 16, CNN* — **Five arrested in terror plot in Bahrain. Bahraini authorities say they have broken up an alleged terrorist ring planning attacks in the Gulf kingdom — home of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet.** Five Bahraini men aged between 31 and 41 were arrested on charges of plotting terrorist acts against the island's "national interests and endangering the lives of innocent people," the official Bahrain News Agency (BNA) reported. Police also seized weapons and ammunition. **A senior Gulf official told Reuters the target was Americans in Bahrain and that two of those arrested were from the Bahraini military.** They were named as Bassam Yousif Abdul–Rahman Ali, Isa Abdulla–Rahman Al–Balooshi, Jamal Hilal Mohammed Al–Balooshi, Mohideen Mahmoud Mohideen Khan, and Bassam Abdul–Razak Abdulla Bukhawa. **It was not clear if the men were acting alone or were part of a larger terrorist network.** The detentions are the first terrorism–related arrests made in Bahrain, a close U.S. ally, since the September 11 attacks.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2003/WORLD/meast/02/16/bahrain.arrests/index.html>

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NIPC Products &Contact Information

The National Infrastructure Protection Center (NIPC) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability, and law enforcement investigation and response entity. The NIPC provides timely warnings of international threats, comprehensive analysis and law enforcement investigation and response. The NIPC provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the NIPC web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following NIPC products:

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NIPC Publications – NIPC Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

NIPC Daily Reports Archive – Access past NIPC Daily Reports

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Content and nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the NIPC Daily Report Team at
Suggestions: 202-234-1129

Distribution Information Send mail to nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov for more information.

Contact NIPC

To report any incidents or to request information from NIPC, contact the NIPC Watch at nipc.watch@fbi.gov or call 202-323-3204.

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